

Pardhi Community

3256. SHRI B. DHARMABIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government recognise the women of Pardhi community as Scheduled Tribes and men as not Scheduled Tribe community in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to remove such discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Pardhi has not been specified as a Scheduled Tribe in relation to the State of Andhra Pradesh under the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 as amended to date. As such, no member of that community is recognised as a Scheduled Tribe in that State.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Loss to Doordarshan

3257. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has incurred a huge loss during 1990 to 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether charging of lower rate sponsorship fee from the programme "The World this Week" was the main reasons for incurring such loss;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Telephone Connections to OB Holders

3258. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to

Part (a)(iv) of Unstarred Question No. 2521 on August 1, 1996 and state;

(a) the definition of the term "Area technically non-feasible";

(b) the number of such cases out of the quota of Members of Parliament in which O.Bs. have been issued and telephone connections have not yet been installed in Okhla Telephone Exchange, New Delhi since January 1, 1996, and

(c) the reasons for not installation of such telephone connections in that exchange and the time by which these connections are likely to be installed.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, technically non-feasible areas are those where telephone connections can not be provided either due to external plant constraints viz., non availability of cable pair etc. or due to non-availability of exchange capacity.

(b) Sir, no such case is pending.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Joint Venture with Foreign Airlines

3259. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government propose to increase Joint Venture and code-sharing with foreign Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). With a view to increase its market presence, Air India is continuously exploring the possibility of expanding its Code-Share operations in co-operation with European, American and South East Asian Carriers. Such Code-Share/Joint Venture Arrangements are already operative with Scandivian Airline System, United Airlines, Kuwait Airlines, Malaysian Airlines, Gulf Air and Air Mauritius.

[Translation]

Exploration of Minerals in Rajasthan

3260. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) name of mines in Rajasthan where the exploration of precious minerals is being undertaken;

(b) the minerals and precious items which have been explored during each of the last three years alongwith the value thereof;